

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.6 | L 29.0

CHITTAGONG
H 34.2 | L 27.0

SYLHET
H 35.6 | L 26.6

RAJSHAH
H 36.2 | L 27.0

KHULNA
H 35.2 | L 27.5

BARISAL
H 33.8 | L 27.6

RANGPUR
H 35.2 | L 27.4

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.7 | L 27.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am. Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 22.5 in Gopalganj.

Govt to help set up day care centres

PM tells Ecnec meeting, hosts iftar for professionals AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government would construct infrastructure of day-care centres and provide required equipment and materials if the owners of private industrial units give necessary land for this purpose. She said this while placing emphasis on ensuring care for the children of working mothers at a meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) in the capital yesterday.

"We want to set up day-care centres at the private sector industries ... factory owners will only have to give land for this purpose. The government will provide necessary cooperation, including construction of day-care centres," Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters after

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges greetings with people of different professions at an iftar organised in their honour at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

INDIAN CITIZENSHIP OFFER Bangladeshi minorities may suffer more

Fears association leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's move to grant citizenship to Bangladeshi Hindu moving there in fear of religious prosecution may intensify torture and repression on minority communities at grass-roots in Bangladesh, claimed Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday.

"We are very anxious and tensed...We fear...such an announcement will encourage those who want to evict religious minorities and grab their lands," President Ushatan Talukder, also a lawmaker, read out the parishad's statement at a press conference.

A dozen minority communities' organisations jointly organised the press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Some of the Indian media recently reported its home ministry's initiative to amend a citizenship law, exempting minority Bangladeshis and Pakistanis moving there in fear of religious prosecution from being tagged as "illegal migrants".

The parishad's General Secretary Ranadas Gupta said Bangladesh's political parties were not striving to restore the 72's constitution which had guaranteed equal rights and

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Six Gaibandha suspects charged with war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed three charges against six persons of Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila, including a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, for their alleged involvement in crimes including tortures and killings during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrwardi fixed August 2 to start the trial with the prosecution's opening statement and recording of witnesses' depositions.

It also asked the prosecution to provide the defence documents it intends to use and the latter to submit its list of witnesses and documents, all by August 2.

Now on the run, the accused are Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, a former Jamaat lawmaker and alleged commander of local Razakar Bahini; Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61; Abdul Latif, 61; Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59;

Najmul Huda, 60; and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62.

The prosecution pressed the charges on March 20 and the tribunal took those into cognisance on March 24.

The charges are over the killing of a Hindu man and looting of his house in Moujamali village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila and murder of a Chhatra League leader and 13 chairmen and members of five unions in Sundarganj.

The prosecution also says the accused had links with Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army. In yesterday's order, the tribunal said, "The formal charge and the statement of witnesses prima facie demonstrate that the accused persons enthusiastically sided with the policy and plan of the Pakistani occupation army and had allegedly carried out horrific activities of crimes against humanity..."

"It is settled that mere framing charge does not prove one's guilt," it added.

Narcotics court in the offing

Says home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said his ministry has taken an initiative to form a separate court to deal with narcotics related cases.

About 50,000 narcotics related cases were pending at present which had to be disposed soon, he said, adding, the ministry had already sent a proposal to the related government body.

Kamal was addressing an event marking International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking arranged by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Kamal, speaking as the chief guest, said they also took steps with the law ministry to modernise the existing anti-narcotics act as there were some limitations in it.

The home boss said they were in talks with the neighbouring countries to reduce the flow of contraband Yaba pills and Phensidyl.

Additional border outposts along Bangladesh-Myanmar border had been set up and capability of Border Guard

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Historic university lost in time

Restoration project for Pandit Vihar in Ctg stalled due to indecision over funding

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The restoration of Chittagong's Pandit Vihar University, the once renowned educational institution of the 8th century, has remained stalled for around six years, due to indecision over its funding process.

The institution was one of the four prestigious universities and Buddhist monasteries of ancient India.

The idea of restoring its glory by establishing a university in Chittagong was conceived in 2010 during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China, according to the education ministry sources.

The name of the university will be changed to International Pandit University and restored following the footsteps of the revival of the ancient Nalanda University in India, said the ministry sources, adding that a draft law and curriculum was also primarily approved.

Insiders said though the ministry and University Grants Commission (UGC) advanced much by approximating a budget of Tk 560 crore and selecting a 50-acre land; the activities came to a halt as the decision of funding remained pending.

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Sticks propped up on a manhole broken for long near the end of the Mohakhali flyover ramp, which lets vehicles head towards Chairmanbari, by nearby traders who claim some 10 accidents occurred there involving unsuspecting drivers. The photo was taken yesterday noon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Man gets life term for raping 3-yr-old girl

COURT CORRESPONDENT

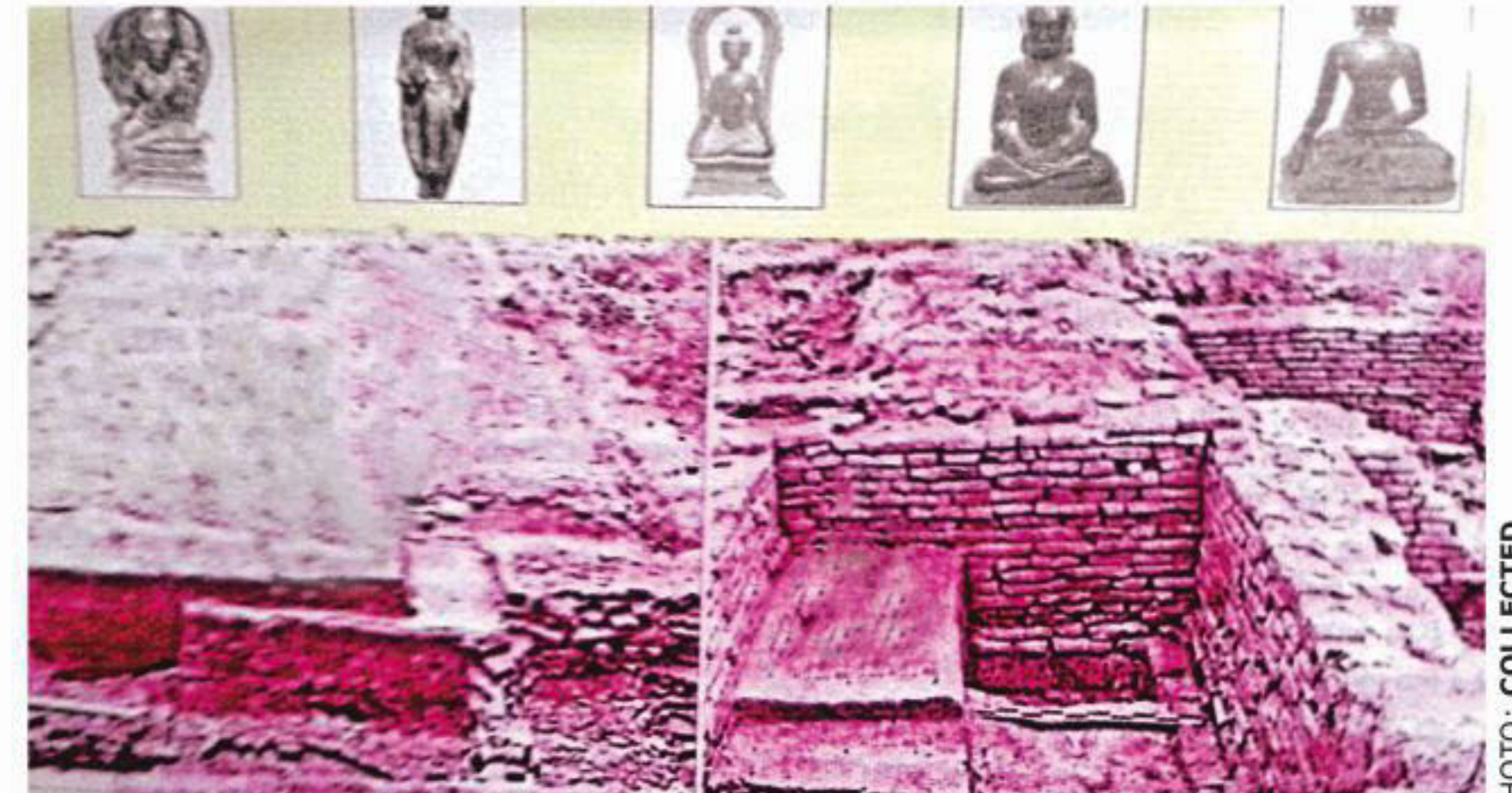
A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced life term imprisonment to a man for raping a three-year-old girl in the city's Mohammadpur area in 2014.

The court handed down the verdict to Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman.

The court also ordered the convict to give Tk 10,000 to the victim's family within 90 days.

According to the prosecution, the convict, a guard of a residence at Madrassa road in the area, took the three-year-old victim to his room and raped her on April 12, 2014.

Later, the victim narrated the incident of rape to her parents and they took their daughter to Suhrawardi Hospital for treatment.



The remains of the historic Pandit Vihar University in Anwara of Chittagong and the artefacts found there, according to an article published in a magazine on May 17, 2011.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

One lakh illegal ATM cards seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday seized one lakh illegally imported ATM cards.

The cards, marked as of City Bank, arrived in Dhaka on a Singapore Airways flight on Sunday, said Rezaul Karim, assistant commissioner of customs.

A preventive team of customs saw an

unidentified man carrying the cards from gate no. 2 of cargo village at the airport's warehouse. Sensing the presence of customs officials, the man fled the spot, leaving two cartons carrying the cards there, he said.

The cards might have been brought for ill intention and financial crimes, added Karim.

Drive is going on to find out those involved in the incident.

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